

February 28, 2012

Co-Chair Paul R. Doyle
Co-Chair Joseph J. Taborsak
Senator Kevin D. Witkos
Representative Rosa C. Rebimbas

Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Abner Burgos Rodriguez and I am here today to submit testimony in support of H.B. 5021, An Act Concerning Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation for Permittees.

I work for a Connecticut based company by the name of Standard Oil, located in Bridgeport. We own c-stores and sell fuel to independently owned c-store throughout the state.

I am here to provide witness to the damaging effects that the current law has on small mom and pop c-stores along our states borders. I live in Danbury and I frequently visit local c-stores who are unable under the current law to obtain a permit to sell beer. This restriction often results in lost earnings, as consumers make their purchases in New York when they are traveling back to Connecticut.

Potential customers who work in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, but live across the boarder in Connecticut, will stop in other states for the convenience of purchasing beer because they simply can not buy it at a c-store in the town where they live in our state. When consumers stop to purchase beer, more times than not they will buy products like milk, cigarettes, and other items that are sold at c-stores. These lost sales mean a smaller income for Connecticut business owners.

C-store owner's work hard 7 days a week to serve their customers, but unfortunately Connecticut has a law that undercuts their efforts. If passed, H.B. 5021 would correct that wrong, provide greater choice for consumers, facilitate greater competition and allow family owned businesses to providing jobs in the communities that they operate in.

H.B. 5021 brings consumers back to Connecticut to buy the products that are offered at our c-stores. Along with those purchases, comes tax revenue for the state, jobs security for the thousands of people who work in c-stores and fair competition.

I ask that the General Law Committee support H.B. 5021, An Act Concerning Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation for Permittees, and allow c-stores to profit, the state to increase revenue, and help ensure job protection for many who work at our c-stores.

Sincerely,

Abner Burgos Rodriguez
Standard Oil